GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3057
ANSWERED ON:23.03.2005
COMMON TELECOM INFRASTRUCTURE
Mohite Shri Subodh

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated a plan to create a common telecom infrastructure to be shared by all departments of Union Government and Sate Governments;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures proposed to be taken for promotion of e-governance by State Governments?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) Government has issued guidelines for establishment of State Wide Area Networks (SWANs) upto the block level in each of the State/UTs. These SWANs alongwith NICNET will serve as core common infrastructure for use by various Central Ministries/Departments and State Governments.

(b)
(i) The guidelines aim at providing support to State Government to establish SWANs from the State Headquarters upto the Block level with a minimum bandwidth capacity of 2 Mbps. These networks would be connected to NICNET through appropriate interfaces.

(ii) For a State to be eligible for funding under the policy, it should have undertaken implementation of three major state wide e-governance projects that require such connectivity. At least one of these projects should have been completely rolled out over the entire state.

(iii) As per the policy, Department of Information Technology will meet the capital and operational costs of the network over a period of 5 years. The respective States will have to bear Bandwidth/Transponder access cost required for the network, physical site and all other related recurring costs.

(iv) State may opt to implement the SWAN either through the National Informatics Centre or through any other agency selected by the State.

(v) State Government should adhere to the guidelines for Security, Standardization, Inter-operability and Interconnect requirements between NICNET and the SWAN.

(c)
(i) Department of Information Technology through the National Informatics Centre is providing backbone e-governance network and technical support to various Central Government Departments, States, UTs and District Administrations in the country for Internet, e-mail, file transfer, database development, e-governance applications development, web-hosting and access.

(ii) States are being encouraged to build their internal capacity for managing e-governance projects and to establish Common Core Infrastructure namely SWANs, State Data Centres and Common Services Centres to serve various e-governance applications.